



# Dealer News

February 2006

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Published by:

CPT Rob Fortune

## **FROM THE COMMANDER...**

We know what has been on your minds as of late and that is all the news about the impending "civil war" in Iraq. Rest assured that in our area of operations it has remained nearly "business as usual" even after the destruction of the Golden Mosque in Samarra (which is very far north of us). The local Shias were very upset by those events but the expected backlash did not materialize and the bombing of this holy site has actually brought some Sunni and Shia together to repudiate the violence.

All of the companies have been hard at work, Hellcat and Fury conducting their daily activities to keep the battalion running and the line companies out and about improving their areas and working with the Iraqi Security Forces and the local people. The battalion has been involved in some major operations in the past couple of weeks with B Co and E Co. taking the lead in those operations while A, C and D keep the enemy on the run and continue strengthening our allies in Jurf as Sukhr and Musayyib.

As the battalion had a leading role in protecting visitors to the holy city of Karbala for the Ashoura, we will again be at the vanguard of security for the Arabeen (probably spelled that wrong, but it means "forty" in Arabic) which celebrates the end of the forty days since the Ashoura. We are expecting up to

four million people to come to Karbala for this event. Needless to say the powers that be are very concerned about the safety of the shrines in Karbala in the light of recent events. Your Dealers will be at the forefront of the planning and coordination of the security for this important religious festival.

CSM Barnett continues to work to improve life here in the Forward Operating Base (FOB). We have 15 brand new tents that have been built from the ground up by Engineers from the Corps Support Command and ten more are in various states of construction. Force Protection improvements also continue unabated in the FOB as we ensure that the Soldiers are as well protected as possible.

Environmental Morale Leave, better known as R+R, is now in full swing as the Dealers rotate our Soldiers home for 15 days of well earned rest and relaxation with family and friends. These early months have seen many volunteers for R+R, but due to the cap on the number of Soldiers who could be gone at any one time, some soldiers had to go earlier than they wanted in order to allow each Dealer a slot to go home during our tour.

The battalion deployed from Fort Hood three months ago and conducted transition of authority of our area of operations (AO) two months ago. So in reality, not too long ago we were at home and with our families and friends. A lot has happened in those three months and your

Dealer has been part of some great successes in these months. We'd like to thank all of you for your support and for your packages and letters. Mail call still is the best time of day. We also appreciate all of the work that you are doing in Texas and around the country to care for our families.

LTC Pat Donahoe  
Dealer 6

Patrick.donahoe@us.army.mil

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## **HELLCAT NEWS**

Greetings from Southwest Asia! As we near the end of the third month of our deployment, the Hellcats are hard at work—making the FOB a better place to live, and doing their part in helping Iraq to become an independent democratic nation. Each passing day marks a step in the right direction for the Iraqi people, and one day closer to coming home to our loved ones.

Although we are half a world away from Fort Hood, the Hellcats still conduct business as usual, and we are proud to announce the following promotions: PV2s Miller, Normandin, and Rodriguez were all promoted to PFC. PFCs Barna, Elrod, Farlow, Gray, Miller, and Roth were promoted to SPC. CPL Goetzinger, CPL Gardner, and SPC Dejesus all earned their sergeant's stripes and were promoted to the rank of SGT. We know that these soldiers and NCOs will live up to the expectations associated with their new rank. Additionally, two of our best Hellcats will be tested at the March promotion board: SPC Baeza and SGT Naylor. In what little free time they have, they will be studying and preparing for the board and we wish them both the best of luck.

The work the Hellcats are doing in Iraq is both valuable and rewarding, but it is also taxing. The following Hellcats will be taking a well-earned break and enjoying two weeks of leave back home with their families (in order): SGT Fernandez, SPC Dunn, PFC Gray, SPC Rios, SGT White, SFC Duncan, SPC Rosales, PFC Young, SGT McDonie, SGT Poon, PFC Lochner, SGT Chevez, PFC Villarreal, PFC Sebren, PFC Shepherd, SPC Jelic, PV2 Cizek, SGT Diblasio, CPL Cavender, SPC Reif, PFC McCraw, PFC Henley, SGT Rivero, and SPC Monahan. These individuals will be missed, but we know they will come back refreshed and ready to get back to the important work we are doing for the people of Iraq. Every Hellcat will be afforded the opportunity to take leave during this deployment, and we will do everything within our power to accommodate special requests for leave during graduations, births, and weddings.

Be proud of the fact that your Hellcat soldier is doing important work here in Mesopotamia. The staff is working 24 hours a day ensuring that our line companies have all of the support they need to get the job done outside of the FOB. Our Scouts and Snipers have worked with every company in the battalion, and even supported operations with other divisions. The Mortars man the firing point and Fire Direction Center 24/7, in addition to daily patrols and escort missions. The Medics provide invaluable care to our soldiers and sometimes even injured Iraqis. The Mayor Cell has been working night and day to improve the living conditions at FOB Iskandariyah, and they have excelled where others have fallen short. At any given moment, the Hellcats are involved in almost every aspect of our battalion's

operations. It is a testament to the proficiency and professionalism of the Hellcat soldiers, NCOs, and officers that we have managed to safely execute any mission we are tasked with.

1SG Hendricks and I are very proud of our company's accomplishments thus far. Know that we are only able to take care of business here in Iraq because of the wonderful support from our loved ones back home. We know that we aren't the only ones dealing with hardships during this deployment, and we thank you for your continued support of the FRG and your deployed soldier. As we bring this month's update to a close, our thoughts turn to our fallen comrades and their families—may we never forget their sacrifice. We pray for our safe return, our fellow deployed soldiers, and our families. Until the next update, we'll see you on the high ground....**HELLCAT!**

CPT Robert Perry  
Hellcat 6

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## **ARCHANGEL NEWS**

Greetings again from FOB ISKANDARIYAH. I want to take this opportunity to tell you of the great things your soldiers are doing here in our area of operations. Your soldiers are conducting mission to secure the towns of Hamiyah, Jurf as Sahkr and the surrounding areas. Your soldiers are giving everything they have daily and their hard work is paying off. The Jurf as Sahkr area has seen a dramatic change even from when we first arrived in December. At first, coalition forces and IP's came into the town and the place was a ghost town. Now, you ride into town and the shops are open, the markets are working, there is a City Council, and the schools are full of kids who are eager to learn and are

allowed to do so because of the work your husbands and sons are doing.

During the month of March, we will begin construction of a fortified patrol base in Jurf as Sahkr. This is the first step toward the rebuilding of the Iraqi Police Station and the reinsertion of Iraqi Security Forces into the Jurf area. There has not been a steady police presence in Jurf as Sahkr since the last IP station was destroyed early last year. This patrol base will be used by our platoons to patrol the Jurf area and allow for more continuous coverage of this area. This event is the pinnacle of what we want to accomplish here. Establishment of the Iraqi Security Forces in our area is the main effort of our mission and the reason we are here; to support the ISF and allow them to be trained and take over the security within the area. We still have a long road ahead. Once the Patrol Base is established, we will begin the build the new IP station which will take several months to complete. Then the IPs will move in and we will continue to work with them to secure the area jointly. This is the long term project for the company and the battalion.

We began sending soldiers on leave on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February. This will continue until the end of September. As of right now, soldiers should have a ballpark figure of the month they are scheduled to come home for leave. Please be aware that situations here may make those dates move, but we intend to get you as much early warning as possible that your soldier is coming home for leave. Enjoy the time you have with your soldiers. We will try to keep you as much as possible updated as to when they should be arriving home and when they will have to be back to catch the flight back to Iraq.

Life in the FOB continues to improve. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of January the new DFAC opened on the FOB with a great meal of Steak, Lobster, Shrimp, and Crab Legs. They are serving 4 meals a day including a Midnight meal for those who are working in sector during dinner. It has made a marked improvement in the morale of the soldiers. Additionally, the battalion continues to build up the perimeter by emplacing a large concrete wall around the FOB. This will deny direct observation by anyone into the FOB and allow for us to run the perimeter of the FOB which is a good 2.2 mile run. Additionally, we opened up our own internet café here in the company area. We have 11 lines in the company CP and 7 in each of the platoon command posts for soldiers to use to check their email or surf the net. BN is installing a second internet café on the FOB with more phones and internet capabilities. That should be up and running in the next month or so.

We want to wish the following people a Happy Birthday for the month of February and March: **SPC Camden (FEB 3), SFC Flowers (FEB 3), PFC Rose (FEB 4), SPC Morrow (FEB 7), PFC Gray (FEB 9), PFC Thompson (FEB 15), PFC Hensley (FEB 22), PFC Taylor (FEB 25), SGT Jackson (FEB 26), PFC Bragg (FEB 28), and PFC Delayo (FEB 28), PVT Paisley (MAR 1), PVT Orzel (MAR 8), PFC Linsday (MAR 13), PFC Frenyea (MAR 17), SFC Manthorne (MAR 19), CPL Wallin (MAR 19), PFC Moss (MAR 21), and PFC FRYE (MAR 21)**

We want to wish the following couples a Happy Anniversary for the month of February and March:

**SSG Darryl and Paris Stoddard**

**February 29 (16<sup>th</sup>)**

**CPT Tony and Desiree Kron  
March 15 (9<sup>th</sup>)**

**1SG Kerry and Loretta Easley**

**March 17 (6<sup>th</sup>)**

**SGT David and Danielle  
Gilbreth March  
17 (6<sup>th</sup>)**

**SSG Brad and Mary Munn  
March 24 (1<sup>st</sup>)**

Again, know your soldiers are doing great things and have brought great credit to themselves, their country, and their families. I personally am very proud of their accomplishments as you should be. As I know you do, keep them in your thoughts and prayers daily.

CPT Tony Kron  
Archangel 6

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### **BUSHMASTER NEWS**

Well, February is a past us now. Another month down, and we find ourselves a quarter complete with our mission here in Iraq. As with previous months the Bushmasters have been very busy conducting a range of missions for the battalion. It's hard to imagine that three months are behind us already. Actually, it's not too hard for me because Erin reminds me every time I talk with her. She is big on countdowns!

The last month has seen a lot of changes for B/1-67. Most notably have been the addition of 1SG Bandy, 1LT Jackson and 2LT Brown to our ranks. 1SG Bandy came to us from Battalion S-3 (Operations) and replaced 1SG Kaloplastos. We bid a fond farewell to 1SG Kaloplastos as he moves on to bigger and better things working for the Brigade CSM at FOB Kalsu. 1SG K has

been the NCO leadership for B/1-67 for many months and has served this unit well. We welcome 1SG Bandy and look forward to the level of experience and professionalism that he will bring to Bravo Company. 1SG Bandy is a career infantryman and brings a wealth of experience from both mechanized and light units.

1LT Jeff Jackson and 2LT Nate Brown assumed responsibility for their platoons on 24FEB06 and replaced LT Allen and LT Benson respectively. Both are West Point graduates and are anxious for the challenges that lay ahead for them in command of your soldiers. 1LT Jackson is an infantryman and now leads 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon. 2LT Brown is an armor officer and now leads 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon. Both are welcome additions to Bravo Company and replace Allen and Benson who (like 1SG Kaloplastos) move onto new challenges working for Brigade at FOB Kalsu. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

In addition to changes in senior leaders, the company has undergone task organization changes to adapt the company to our mission in Iraq. As an overview, our cross-attached tank platoon and our 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon have split to give us two platoons that are half tank and half mechanized infantry. That impacts you at home because now some of your loved ones now find themselves with new platoon leadership. It will not affect their mailing address! In the past few days we have also received an influx of new soldiers to Bushmaster which are a welcome addition to our ranks.

We have taken steps at the platoon and company level to ensure the safety of your loved ones so they are prepared for the rigors and challenges of our mission. Each one of your soldiers are briefed and given

classes on uniform discipline/force protection, detainee handling, rules of engagement, escalation of force and tactics for combating Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). All of these are conducted to ensure the safety of your soldiers so they understand the dynamic environment that we operate in here in Iraq. As always, my commitment to you and your soldiers is the safety of your loved ones. I and all of the leaders here in Bravo Company will work tirelessly to ensure they are given the proper training and equipment to conduct their missions effectively and safely.

Several Bushmasters have been recognized for their leadership potential over the past month. SPC Dragan and SPC Helton attended the SGT promotion board and were recommended for promotion with the highest marks in the battalion. Both set the standard for their peers and demonstrated their individual proficiency. As a result, SPC Dragan and Helton were laterally promoted to Corporal and given the great task as serving as junior noncommissioned officers. I look forward to their progression as NCOs and seeing their leadership styles develop in the coming months. In addition, SPC Braumbaugh (2<sup>nd</sup> PLT) attended the promotion board and was recommended for promotion with CPL Dragan and Helton. I look forward to his continued growth and his eventual promotion to the NCO ranks.

February brought about the start of mid tour leave for the entire unit. As of now, we have sent 18 soldiers home on mid tour. ALL Bushmaster soldiers who deployed with the company from the start of operations will be given the opportunity to take leave. There are enough allocated slots for all of these soldiers to go

home. Priority will be given to them before slots are allocated for soldiers who are new arrivals.

This past month has seen the company involved in numerous company and battalion level combat operations. Your men are doing extremely well and have already made a huge impact on our mission here. The actions of your soldiers have resulted in the safety of millions of Iraqis who participated in the Ashoura celebration (the first celebration since the beginning of war with no loss of life due to terrorist activities), the detention of one terrorist (found with explosive detonators), the discovery of multiple ordnance caches and the discovery of multiple IEDs. You should all be immensely proud of your soldiers and their hard work. Their leaders continually ask them to push the limits of their endurance and they always exceed our expectations. They are motivated, determined and always look forward to new challenges.

With one quarter down we all look to our future time here in Iraq and we wonder what the country will look like when we leave. In just the short time we have been here we have witnessed monumental events. The December elections, the terrorist attacks in Samarra and the turn over of battle space to Iraqi security forces. It is impossible to forecast what the future will bring, but I know that your soldiers have already made a positive impact on the lives of the Iraqi people and I know they will continue to make this country safer for all Iraqis in the coming months.

It is an honor to serve with your soldiers and an even greater honor to serve you, them and our nation as their company commander. Please continue to keep all of us in your thoughts and prayers and thank you (as always) for your continued support. We



all look forward to our reunion back home.

CPT Matthew Koehler  
Bush 6

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## **CARNIVORE NEWS**

Greetings to the Families and Friends of the Carnivores:

First I would like to say "Thank You" for the continued support you have all given to your loved ones while they continue their excellent service here on the frontier of freedom. Your prayers, care packages, letters, and phone conversations keep us focused on the task at hand knowing that you are taking care of the difficult work back at home. Again, I know we don't say it enough, but we love you and appreciate everything you are doing for us.

Carnivore Company has spent the last month aggressively taking the fight to the enemy. These constant patrols have disrupted the enemy's ability to emplace IEDs on main roads in sector. Additionally, the men have become much more proficient at finding the IEDs beforehand and allowing EOD to dispose of them. Operations resulted in four detainees and a much greater acceptance of our presence in the area. Locals are increasingly willing to come forward and provide information as our Soldiers interact more with them on a daily basis. We continue to use the "Island" as a platform to launch ambushes and route clearance patrols from the heart of our sector. Although it involved many sandbags and

lots of manual labor, the "Island" is making great progress as a platoon operating base that we rotate responsibility for with Alpha Company. We even have a burn latrine there now, and are rotating personnel through so that everyone has an opportunity to partake in this fundamental Army tradition.

Internally, we conducted a task organization change into platoon teams for the remainder of the deployment. We split the Infantry platoon in half and merged them with 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon. 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon remains an organic tank platoon, but now controls almost all of the Headquarters personnel to give them more manpower on their patrols. Additionally, every platoon has an attached medic and an attached mechanic that goes out with them on each mission. Despite some initial growing pains, the concept is working and the new organizations are quickly molding into highly cohesive teams.

For the month of February, the following Soldiers deserve special credit for their exemplary service: SSG Martinez for truly stepping up as a leader and taking ownership of the tank section, as well as preparing for an EOD escort mission and departing in only eight minutes from time of notification. SGT Leyde for paying attention to his surroundings while on a dismounted ambush and identifying an extremely large weapon cache (see pictures). SGT Johnston for his unparalleled motivation when after being medevaced out with a stick embedded under his eye,

returned the very next day ready to get back out on patrol. SPC Rodriguez and SPC Willis for their desire to volunteer on any and all missions. SPC Mills and SPC Porter for an outstanding recovery mission with Delta Company where they pulled out one stuck M88, two Bradleys, and two HMMWVs. CPL Nebzydowski for volunteering to accompany the sniper team in sector and performing magnificently as well as disproving the myth that tankers can't operate on foot. And finally, PFC Ferguson for his performance as an interim Bradley driver on B11 while the original driver is on leave.

The following promotions occurred on the first of February: 2LT VanCleave to 1LT, CPL Millarez to SGT, SPC Imhoff to CPL, SPC Moyer to CPL, PFC Palmer to SPC, PFC Wallace to SPC, PFC Willis to SPC, and PV2 Gilger to PFC.

The following personnel decided to continue their excellent service to the Army and the United States of America by reenlisting (the tax-free bonuses had nothing to do with their decision...). SPC Willis and SPC Rodriguez conducted a joint reenlistment ceremony as crewmembers of C66 (we're still waiting on SGT Caldwell), SPC Lauer, and SPC Palmer. All have displayed unwavering commitment to the US Army and I expect them to continue their outstanding service in the future.

Those scheduled for leave in the month of March are as follows: SPC Getchell,

CPL Atalig, SPC Willis, PFC Groover, PFC Rutan, SPC Hall, PFC Enos, PFC Brown, PV2 Ferguson, SGT Johnston, PFC Leavitt, SPC Mills, CPL Ward, and SGT Luciano. This has proven to be a true headache for those trying to depart and return from theatre, but the time at home is well deserved for all.

On a somber note, I would like to ask everyone to include PFC Garza in their prayers, whose terminally ill mother passed away on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February. He is currently on his way home to help out his family in this difficult situation. He is in the thoughts and prayers of all of us who are currently forward-deployed.

For the March FRG meeting, my wife will be handing out free of charge the December - January chapter of the Team Carnivore video. All who would like a copy are highly encouraged to attend. Those who can not make it, please email my wife at [lbottcher@hotmail.com](mailto:lbottcher@hotmail.com). The February chapter is currently in the works but will not be complete and mailed in time for the meeting. Once they arrive, my wife will contact everyone over email/telephone to provide the opportunity to purchase one. This will be a monthly occurrence and should increase in quality as the XO hones his movie making skills. Video sales will be used to increase FRG funds and earmarked for the welcome home party.

CPT Stefan McFarland  
Carnivore 6

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## **DOG NEWS**

I wish you all a Happy Belated Valentine's Day and an early Happy St. Patty's Day from the soldiers of DOG Company. This month, like all others, has been demanding on both the soldiers and equipment. First, I'd like to congratulate all of the soldiers we promoted on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month – SSG Noel, **etc.** They all have worked hard and earned it. I'm proud to work with all of them. We also received two soldiers from Fort Hood, 2LT Ryan Kelley and PVT **Buzz** Adams. LT Kelley is the new 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon Leader and PVT Adams is the new driver for the D23 crew. Both are welcome additions to the Dogg Pound. As you see, changes are in the air. CPT Flores has moved on to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Headquarters and we wish him all the best in his new role. LT Mignano, of 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon fame (or infamy), has moved over to replace CPT Flores as the Company XO. I'm sure both will excel in their new jobs.

This month we have focused our operations on integrating the local Iraqi Police into just about everything we do. This is our effort to improve their ability to secure their towns and the surrounding areas, increase their professionalism, and give the local citizens more confidence in the police ability to "Protect and Serve." Progress is slow and not always visible but it's there and our soldiers are the reason for the Iraqi Police improvements of the last three months. We've also gotten out, met, and talked to the local citizens in order to put a more human face on the tanks, Bradleys, and Humvees that drive all over the place. Most people around here are very tolerant and understanding of our activity. In fact, just about every soldier has had an opportunity to stop and

drink some **chai** (tea) because a local citizen has invited them into their home. We intend and hope to continually improve our relationship with the local population. We can only do that using the personal relationships our soldiers build everyday out here. Winning the people over is key to our success and our soldiers win a few more over everyday.

The R&R Leave Program has been a success so far and in the *current plan right now*, every soldier *should* have the opportunity for two weeks of leave now through September. **Insh'Allah** (God willing), that plan will stay on track. Please understand that this is the Army and plans change like socks, so be flexible. If you are planning on sending any care packages soon, thanks. Let me give you some help as far as what to put in the packages. Unless the soldier asks for them, don't send any toiletries; everybody's got plenty. Also, hard candies are welcome, if not for the soldier, then for the kids in the area. Pencils and paper are also good for the kids too. The words in bold are some Arabic words we've picked up in our travels, so you may hear them when talking to your soldier. Thank you for all of your support and everything you do back home.

CPT Irvin Oliver  
Dog 6

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## **ELIMINATOR NEWS**

To all the families of the Eliminators

It's been a very successful month for the eliminators. The men have been extremely busy conducting 2 patrols a day, and maintaining a 24 Observation Post in AO Eliminator. Also we have been conducting day and night

boat patrols along the Euphrates. During this mission we have focused on finding and destroying boats used to carry insurgents and IED materials across the Euphrates. 1LT Ryan has focused on finding and capturing Insurgents in sector, and under his leadership the platoons have detained multiple individuals suspected of being insurgents. SSG Jones has been leading boat operations, and has completed multiple patrols with the help of the US Navy. Both 1LT Ryan and SSG Jones have continued to integrate IA soldiers into every patrol possible. This is a challenging mission with the language barrier, and lack of experience of the typical IA soldier, but with their efforts we will prepare our IA Company to replace the Eliminators.

For SFC McKee it's been another challenging month maintaining the vehicles and equipment of the eliminators. He currently is maintaining 60 pieces of equipment, and conducting vehicle services on our HUMVEEs and Bradley's. For the mechanics of the Eliminators we can't say enough about the hard work and effort in keeping the vehicles in operational condition. They work hard hours, and the rest of the company appreciates their effort.

This month we welcomed 4 new soldiers to the company. SGT Maggard was transferred from the support company, and immediately integrated himself with the busy work schedule of the mechanics. We also welcomed PVT Wicker, PFC Glassey, and most recently 2LT German. The company currently integrates these soldiers by ensuring that they have the time to prepare for operations outside the FOB. For example, 2LT German will meet the BN staff, sign for equipment, and conduct a transition training with 1LT Ryan

before he begins to conduct operations on his own as a patrol leader.

For the soldiers, the 1SG did a great job with the senior NCOs in preparing the Eliminators for the BN promotion board. I congratulate all our promotion board attendees (SPC Tolbert, SPC Turkaly, SPC Judd, SPC Tubbs, SPC Eckert, and SPC Taylor), as they were all successful at the board and now in a promo table status. We will also promote all the successfully boarded specialist to Corporal. Additionally, we congratulate (SPC Vang, PFC Houk, PFC Christopherson, PV2 Williams, PV2 Demoss, and PV2 Johnson J.) on their new promotions. We have also pushed over 20 soldiers through new equipment training with Counter IED vehicles and detection equipment. This will enable the Eliminators to find and defeat IEDs from the safety of the Army's new Buffalo and RG31 vehicles.

Living conditions continue to improve on FOB ISKAN. The BN is erecting new tents to replace the older worn tents. Texas Barriers have been placed around the perimeter of the FOB, and now we have a concrete wall between your soldiers and the surrounding terrain. The BN is also scheduled to receive a second internet café with phones that will be located adjacent to the Eliminator Tents. The new DFAC is working out well, and provides great meal to all of us.

Finally, I would like to welcome the new leader of the FRG Group Mrs. Kane as well as Mrs. Banks our new treasure. We will continue to push information to the FRG twice monthly with the BN Newsletter and our own at midmonth. As always feel free to contact myself at [jasturm@yahoo.com](mailto:jasturm@yahoo.com) or [james.sturm@us.army.mil](mailto:james.sturm@us.army.mil) or 1SG Wesley at

[john.h.wesley@us.army.mil](mailto:john.h.wesley@us.army.mil) with any questions or concerns you may have about the company.

CPT James Sturm  
Eliminator 6

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### **FURY NEWS**

With January in the books, another month has come and gone for Fury's deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom. The company made great strides in a number of ways during the month. Improvements continue to be made to FOB Iskandariyah daily. A new dining facility (DFAC) was brought in, along with materials to build individual rooms in each tent. Additionally, a huge thanks goes out to SPC Isenhour, PV2 Lorenzo, SGT Rygenski, and SSG Becker for their non-stop missions during the DFAC construction and base clean-up.

Combat Operations continued for Fury during the month of January, and with each passing day Fury shows it is vital to the success of 1-67 AR and the mission as a whole. Even with add-on missions, covering down on extra guard shifts, and day-to-day issues, Fury kept working harder and harder each day. Maintenance Platoon continued to keep the battalion's vehicles running safely out on the roads at a percentage rate higher than the Army's standard. And speaking of being out on the road, Distro Platoon successfully executed over 40 missions during the month of January! The company is now responsible for the safe transport of all captured insurgents from the battalion to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade headquarters at FOB Kalsu. This is a huge responsibility that is vital to the Army's mission in Iraq, and of course Fury has executed every detainee movement perfectly.

Fury had more Soldiers re-enlist during the month, and

currently leads the battalion in Soldier retention. PFC Casey, PFC Wells, and SPC Isenhour all re-enlisted, taking advantage of huge tax-free bonuses in addition to their continued service to our country. Fury continues to promote deserving Soldiers in recognition of their dedication to duty, hardwork, and increasing leadership abilities. Over 25 Soldiers were promoted to the ranks of Private First Class, Specialist, Sergeant, and Staff Sergeant in January. Congratulations to all of these deserving Soldiers and new Non-Commissioned Officers!

Fury would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new Soldiers and their families. Joining us in Iraq were PV2 Pickett, PV2 Cudmore, PFC Thorne, PFC Lebar, and SPC Telker. All of these outstanding Soldiers have jumped right into the daily routine to help in every way possible with the Company's mission. Sadly, however, we must soon say goodbye to a long time member of the Company. 1LT Hulse, Distro Platoon Leader, will leave us soon to become the Executive Officer for Delta Troop, 1-10 Cav based at FOB Charlie. Good luck to 1LT Hulse as he begins the next chapter in his Army career!

Nothing Moves Without Fury!

CPT Bradley A. Heath  
Fury 6

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## **CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

A flower in the desert

As a lover of nature, I appreciate the complexity of life. Few things surpass the beauty of a flower. One of the most amazing flowers I've seen is on a cactus. A cactus needs very little water and

actually does poorly if it receives too much water. But give the cactus tons of sun and a marginal amount of water and once a year, if you are blessed, it will produce a flower. The flower on the cactus is very fragile and only lasts a couple of days. But the fact that this desert plant can produce a flower at all is amazing, and the flower itself is a picture of beauty.

Our stay in the desert is difficult, but as I talk to individuals across the battalion, I can't help but notice that many of these men and women are focused on their family and the important things in life. Times with the family that may have been ordinary in their lives are treated as gold; memories become treasures. To hear each person's story about their spouse, children, parents and friends is to share in a person's most precious belongings. These soldiers are like cactus trying to survive harsh conditions, yet able to produce incredible beauty. They are your sons, daughters, husbands and wives; they are your friends and your neighbors and they miss you greatly.

May God bless you.

CPT (CH) Carl Otis



